

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 were presented and examined. Claims 1-8 are rejected. In response, Claims 1 and 6-8 are amended, Claim 2 is cancelled, and Claims 9-13 are added. Claims 1 and 3-13 remain in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow.

Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,719,631 issued to Tulley, et al. (“Tulley”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,702,305 issued to Norman (“Norman”).

Claim 1 as amended to recite a personal interface portable device for electronic card games, including a thin display screen, a tactile detection faceplate superimposed on the screen, control circuits for acting on a game display using the screen in response to the actions detected by the detection faceplate, and an interface with a central system having a display screen and capable of executing electronic games, said control circuits and said interface being capable in cooperation with said central system to display a set of cards on said screen, to select a card among said displayed cards and to extract a selected card from the set, to cause said selected card to be displayed on said central system display screen or to transfer said selected card to a set of cards displayed in an identical device of another user, wherein the display screen and the faceplate define a concave surface facing the user, whereby the confidentiality of a displayed card hand is ensured. (Emphasis added).

The feature of “wherein the display screen and the faceplate define a concave surface facing the user, whereby the confidentiality of a displayed card hand is ensured” is supported by original claim 2 (now canceled), the specification at page 4, lines 14-16, and Figures 1-2.

Tulley and Norman, separately or combined, do not teach or suggest this feature of amended Claim 1.

The Examiner indicates that Tulley discloses a display screen and a faceplate having a concavity that turns towards the user. Although Tulley’s device has a curved shape at the bottom of the device, the display screen and the faceplate of Tulley’s device have a rectangular shape facing the user (Figure 12). Further, the shape of the display screen and the faceplate, as disclosed by Tulley, is totally unrelated to the confidentiality of a displayed card hand.

Norman does not supply the missing elements in Tulley with respect to the shape of the display screen and the faceplate. Thus, Tulley in view of Norman does not teach or suggest each of the elements of amended Claim 1.

Moreover, Tulley does not disclose selecting and extracting a card from a set of cards for display on a central system display screen or for transfer to another portable device. Tulley discloses a gaming system that includes an event result server 100 (Figure 1) to produce the outcome of the game. For example, the event result server may determine whether a player has won a new automobile (col. 6, lines 28-33). There is no indication in Tulley that a card can be selected and extracted from a set of cards for display on a central system display screen or for transfer to another portable device. Norman discloses a game board having a centrally located direct view image display area. However, Norman does not specifically disclose that the image display area displays a card that is selected and extracted from a set of cards displayed on a display screen.

Further, Applicant submits that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness with the cited references. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Examiner must set forth “some articulated reasoning with some rational underpinning to support the conclusion of obviousness.” See, KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 82 USPQ2d 1385, 1396 (2007). The Examiner must provide “some articulated reasoning with some rationale underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness.” *Id.* Applicant submits that the player device disclosed by Tulley cannot be combined with Norman to produce the claimed invention.

Tulley discloses a PDA as a player device. A person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that a PDA is a portable handheld device that includes a display screen. The personal display device disclosed by Norman, e.g., a head-mounted device or a table-mounted device shown in Figures 13-16, includes an aperture, instead of a display screen, for displaying images. A system of PDAs cannot be combined with a system that requires each player device to have a viewing aperture. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined a system of PDAs with a system that requires each player device to have a viewing aperture. Even if the two systems are combined, the combination would not produce the recited system, where the display screen and the faceplate define a concave surface facing the user to ensure the confidentiality of a displayed card hand.

Analogous discussions apply to independent Claim 8, which is amended to include analogous limitations. New Claims 9-13 depend from Claim 8.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Claims 1, 8 and their respective dependent claims are non-obvious over Tulley in view of Norman. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-8 is requested.

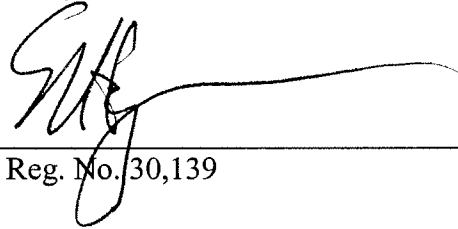
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

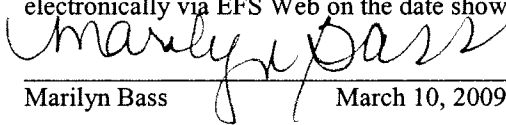
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March 10, 2009